

8TH GRADE UNIT OF STUDY
5-day (5 hours) sample curriculum

Main Objective:

Students will learn about the journey from 8th grade through high school graduation and beyond. These lessons will provide information about preparing for college, high school graduation requirements as well as how those requirements compare to the success curriculum required for the Hathaway Scholarship. Students will also become aware of how the decisions they make in high school can affect their life after high school, especially when it comes to pursuing a career.

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Day 1: What does the future hold for me and how will I get there?

Materials:

- **The Pathway to College (You Are Here)** map for every 8th grade student
- **Hathaway Scholarship High School Requirements for 2011 and Beyond / Hathaway Rubric** handout for every 8th grade student
- **An AIE Careers & Degrees / QC "What Good is a College Education Anyway?"** handout for every 3-5 8th grade students
- **Education = Money** handout for every 3-5 8th grade students
- **A Scholarship Help** handout for every 8th grade student
- Students will need to have paper and a pen/pencil

Opening:

Have students read over the **AIE Careers & Degrees** career list and circle 2-5 that they are interested in. After about 5-10 minutes, have them note the type(s) of degree they will need for each chosen career. Ask them to think about whether or not they are willing to spend the time and money in college they will need to in order to have the career they want. Then read **"What Good is a College Education Anyway?"** on the reverse side as they follow along. Finally, give them time to look over the **Education = Money** handout. Discuss.

State the

Objective:

As the students continue to think about whether or not college is worth the investment of their time and money, announce that the lifetime income of people with a 4-year degree is over \$1 million MORE than those who have only a high school diploma. Explain that today they are going to explore how to get from 8th grade to high school to college and how the choices they make throughout this journey can affect their future 10, 20, even 30 years from now.

Lesson:

- Turn their attention to **The Pathway to College map**. Give them time to look over the map (10 +/- minutes), and then explain that every part of this map provides directions from 8th grade to college.
- Explain that while going to college requires a commitment of time and money, there are resources out there to help ease the financial burden of a college education. Have them review the **Scholarship Help** handout.
- Finally, introduce the Hathaway Scholarship Program to them. Point them to the **Hathaway Scholarship High School Requirements** handout. Let them know that both sides of this handout explain how to earn the different levels of scholarship as well as how to maintain scholarship eligibility once in college.

Activity: Have the students pair up or get into to small groups (no more than 4). On a piece of paper, have them come up with 3-5 questions they would like answered throughout the week about the success curriculum, the Hathaway Scholarship Program, career choices, etc. Reading and discussing a few of these questions during each day of this unit would be a great way to begin each lesson.

Closure: Emphasize the importance of planning for a career NOW, even though it seems like it is in the far distant future. Let them know that future topics for this study will include an in-depth look at the concepts introduced today, as well as the opportunity to explore various careers at a deeper level. Collect their questions.

Day 2: What is the Success Curriculum & how will it help me prepare for my future career?

Materials:

- **The Pathway to College (You Are Here)** map for every 8th grade student (given on Day 1)
- A copy of your district's **high school graduation requirements** (beginning with class of 2011) for every 8th grade student (**not provided**)
- **Hathaway Scholarship High School Requirements for 2011 and Beyond / Hathaway Rubric** handout for every 8th grade student (given on Day 1)
- An **AIE High School Courses** handout for every 3-5 8th grade students
- **College Preparation Checklist for Students** handout for every 8th grade student
- **Four-Year Plan** worksheet for every 8th grade student
- Students will need to have paper and a pen/pencil

Opening: Begin by reading 3-5 questions the students prepared on Day 1 and discussing them. Then, review **The Pathway to College (You Are Here)** handout with the students. Focus specifically on what they need to do in the 8th grade (learn about the Hathaway Scholarship Program & the Success Curriculum, as well as making plans to meet with the school counselor).

State the

Objective: Point out that students need to start planning for college NOW, even though it seems so far away. Highlight the fact that Wyoming offers a unique scholarship opportunity for students who choose to attend college in-state, but there are things they will need to do in high school in order to earn this scholarship. Explain that today they are going to learn about the Hathaway Scholarship Program, the high school Success Curriculum, and taking an active role in earning the scholarship level they want.

Lesson:

- Begin by reminding them that there are MANY scholarship and financial aid opportunities available regardless of where they choose to go to college (remind them about the **Scholarship Help** handout they received on Day 1).

- Discuss the **College Preparation Checklist for Students** handout with them and point out that this will help them prepare for ANY college, not just a Wyoming college.
- Shift gears and talk about attending Wyoming colleges or UW and how students who choose to do that can earn the Hathaway Scholarship. Use the **Hathaway Scholarship High School Requirements for 2011 and Beyond / Hathaway Rubric** handout (both sides) to explain the different levels of the Hathaway Scholarship and the Success Curriculum requirements that go with each level.
- Compare the Success Curriculum requirements with your **district's high school graduation requirements**.
- Read over the **AIE High School Courses** handout with the students. Then turn their attention to the **Four-Year Plan** worksheet.

Activity: Have the students think about what level of the Hathaway Scholarship they would like to work for in high school. Then give them time to fill in the **Four-Year Plan** worksheet.

Closure: Emphasize the importance of planning for college now, and that they should not close any doors to opportunities even if right now they think college isn't for them. Also point out that the Success Curriculum will better prepare them for LIFE after high school, even if they choose not to go to college; they will be better prepared for the workforce.

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Days 3-5: How do I choose and prepare for a career that's right for me?

Materials:

- An **AIE Explore Careers** handout for every 3-5 students
- An **I am able to...** worksheet for every 8th grade student
- A **Goals in Action** worksheet for every 8th grade student
- **Career Magazines** (already delivered to your school)
- Students will need to have paper and a pen/pencil

Opening: Begin by reading 3-5 questions the students prepared on Day 1 and discussing them. Then, review any of the previous days' materials you think necessary before moving on with the next 3 days.

State the

Objective: Planning for a career takes careful thought and a lot of long-term planning. For the next 3 days, students will explore their strengths, explore career options, and set goals for their future.

Lesson:

- Begin with the **AIE Explore Careers** handout and have the students think about the questions presented here. You may ask them to write down their responses on a piece of paper, or you may simply want them to consider the questions in their minds.
- Next, give each student an **I am able to...** worksheet and have them check off the appropriate boxes. You may have some students share their information if you'd like.

- Talk about how it is necessary to know your strengths and how they can use that knowledge to make smart career choices.

Activity:

- This would now be a good time to use the **Career Magazines** sent to your school and plan the next few days activities around them. Below you will see a section called "**Additional Ideas for the 8th Grade Unit of Study**"
- At the end of this unit, give each student a **Goals In Action** worksheet and have them fill it out. You may have some students share their information if you'd like.

Closure:

Just like on Day 2, emphasize the importance of planning for college and/or a career now. Also emphasize again that the Success Curriculum will better prepare them for LIFE after high school, even if they choose not to go to college; they will be better prepared for the workforce.

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Other Ideas for the 8th Grade Unit of Study

- On-line career readiness activities
- Career fair
- Career speakers
- Interest inventories
- Career research projects
- Field trips
- Parent night
- Have students interview a person who works in the career field they are interested in.
- Have students explore the current cost of living and discuss how those costs will change over time.
- Present information on different post-secondary programs from certifications that only take one semester to degrees that take 4 years or more to complete.